(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this regard;

(d) whether any recommendation were made in the 89th Indian Science Congress for disasters preparedness of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up an Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) has recently been approved by the Government. The principal mandate of the EREC is to collate and integrate various data sets and to prepare the site-specific earthquake risk maps. The centre is being located as a separate wing of India Meteorological Department, New Dehli. Under the 10th Five Year Plan, required amount has been allocated to initiated the envisaged activities of EREC.

(d) to (f) The recommendations of 89th Indian Science Congress, held at Lucknow during 3rd to 7th January 2002, are awaited.

Support to Science and Technology Projects of Karnataka

5501. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) which proejcts serviced by Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology are supported by the Department of Science and Technology during 2001-2002; and

(b) the amount released to Karnataka for these projects during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Department of

Science and Technology has supported the following projects to Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology and released a total amount of Rs. 16.34 lakhs during the period 2001-2002:

(1) Natural Resources Data Management Studies (NRDMS).

(2) Ecological dynamics of small farm operations in Karnataka and its potential for organic farming.

(3) Feasibility manual on Sustainable Transformation of Rural Areas (SuTRA)

(4) Environmental influences on feeding and breeding strategies of pearl spot fish.

Restructuring of CSIR Institutions

5502. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has decided to restructure some of the institutions and close down some other centres;

(b) if so, the names of institutions to be closed;

(c) the reasons for doing so; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The restructuring is based on a detailed review carried out by two expert Committees set up by CSIR; the first pertaining to INSDOC and NISCOM the second to the CSIR outreach Centres. The First Committee recommended the merger of these two institutes in order to dovetail & synergise their core competencies and the infrastructural facilities. The second Committee recommended the continuation of nearly half the centres and closure/merger of the remaining ones based on the assessment of each centre with reference to its resources base, performance, output strength, weakness, opportunities, threates, relevance and utility in the present and future context.